

REMARKS

Claims 7-10, as amended, remain herein. Claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice.

1. Applicants' specification has been amended thereby mooted the objections stated in the Office Action.

2. Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-6 have been canceled. Claims 7-10 have been amended to further clarify the claims, thereby mooted this rejection.

3. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Chambon U.S. Patent 5,204,453, Beffa U.S. Patent 4,427,585, Mollet U.S. Patent 4,314,815, C.I. Acid Black 58 (as evidenced by the American Chemical Society (ACS) File Registry Number (RN) 12218-94-9 on STN, entered in STN on November 16, 1984 (RN 12218-94-9)), and Beffa U.S. Patent 4,005,065. Claims 1-6 have been canceled thereby mooted these rejections.

4. Claims 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ogami U.S. Patent 5,077,168, in combination with Lazar U.S. Patent 3,923,453, and RN 12218-94-9. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 7 and 9 claim a toner for developing an electrostatic agent comprising a monoazo compound (claim 7) and a monoazo-metals compound (claim 9). The claimed toner comprises a monoazo compound of the formula I or II, which both include a naphthol group substituted with NHCO-O-R^6 . The claimed toner also includes a bivalent, trivalent, or tetravalent metallic element capable of coordinating with the monoazo compound, selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, Sr, Ca, Mg, Al, Ni, Co, Mn, Ti, Zr, Sn, B and Si.

None of Ogami, Lazar or RN 12218-94-9, discloses or suggests applicants' claimed toner because none of those references discloses or suggests a monoazo compound including a NHCO-O-

R-substituted naphthol group and a coordinating metallic element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, Sr, Ca, Mg, Al, Ni, Co, Mn, Ti, Zr, Sn, B and Si. Ogami fails to disclose or suggest these elements. For example, Ogami, col. 4, lines 20-40, shows a formula for a metal-containing complex salt dye, but does not depict a NHCO-O-R-substituted naphthol group. The specific dye examples given at Ogami, col. 9 and 10 also do not disclose or suggest any monoazo compound including a naphthol group substituted with NHCO-O-R. Likewise, Lazar and RN 12218-94-9 do not disclose or suggest a monoazo compound including a NHCO-O-R-substituted naphthol group. Furthermore, Lazar does not disclose or suggest any particular coordinating element, and RN 12218-94-9 discloses only chromium.

Applicants' claimed combination of the monoazo compounds of formulas I and II having a NHCO-O-R-substituted naphthol group, along with the claimed coordinating elements, is highly stable, and resistant to decomposition and sublimation by heating because of the NHCO-O-R substituent. Furthermore, the claimed monoazo-metals compound has excellent moisture resistance, and is resistant to mechanical friction, mechanical shock, electric shock and optical irradiation. The claimed toner also provides a high quality developed image. These properties are an unexpected byproduct of applicants' claimed combination of elements, and would not have been achieved by any suggested modification of Ogami, Lazar, or RV 12218-94-9.

Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Ogami, Lazar, or RN 12218-94-9 of applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any suggestion thereof in any of those references. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion that any portions of the disclosures of those references should be combined to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

5. Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanikawa U.S. Patent 5,500,318, in view of Lazar and RN 12218-94-9. Tanikawa also fails to disclose or suggest applicants' claimed monoazo compound including a NHCO-O-R-substituted naphthol group, and a coordinating element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, Sr, Ca, Mg, Al, Ni, Co, Mn, Ti, Zr, Sn, B, and Si. None of the azo metal complexes disclosed in Tanikawa includes a NHCO-O-R-substituted naphthol group. Tanikawa, col. 12-14. Furthermore, as explained above, Lazar and RN 12218-94-9 do not disclose or suggest a monoazo compound including a NHCO-O-R-substituted naphthol group or the claimed coordinating elements. Thus, the unexpected advantages of applicants' claimed toner would not result from the teachings of Tanikawa, Lazar, or RN 12218-94-9.

Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Tanikawa, Lazar, or RN 12218-94-9 of applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any suggestion thereof in any of those references. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion that any portions of the disclosures of those references should be combined to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

For the foregoing reasons, all claims 7-10 are now fully in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner feel that further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 13, 2007



Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177
C. Donald Stevens
Registration No. 53,638

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1795
Tel: (202) 429-3000
Fax: (202) 429-3902

RWP/CDS:cd